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## American Airlines files for bankruptcy protection

DALLAS (AFP) - American Airlines' parent company AMR filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection yesterday, as the troubled firm tried to put its finances in order while keeping planes in the sky and passengers in seats.

"Chapter 11 reorganization is in the best interest of the company and its stakeholders," the firm said in an early-morning statement, which also announced the departure of chairman and chief executive Gerard Arpey.

The airline said it hoped the move would help it secure "long-term viability" by improving costs, reducing its debt



burden and trying to be more profitable amid rising jet fuel prices.

The filing will allow the Texas-based carrier, which has extensive routes within the

United States and the Americas, to restructure with more legal room-for-maneuver to renegotiate or cancel service and wage contracts.

*Continued on page 11*

## Seven Carnival giants get recognition



On Thursday evening during the popular Carubbian Festival a very special ceremony was held for 7 giants of Aruba's Carnival who were honored. The honor was bestowed on them because of their significant contribution to our Carnival.

Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber, who himself is a diehard carnival enthusiast, presented the well-deserved recognition. The presentation was in the form of the 14th edition of Bacchanal.

As a form of special recognition the seven honorees are

featured on the front page of the official magazine of Aruba's Carnival. The 7 Carnival enthusiasts are: Nico Quant, Mary Simon, Eddy Ras, Martica Arends, Bertha Janga, Sela Goeloe and Tutu Rasmijn.

Interestingly, all 7 of the Carnival giants live in the San Nicolaas surroundings, hence the reason for choosing the Carubbian Festival for the place and occasion for the celebration.

Minister Oduber had words of praise for the 7 Carnival giants. He praised each person

for their valuable contributions to Carnival over the years. He remarked that if it wasn't for these people Aruba's Carnival would not be what it is today.

Author of the Bacchanal magazine, Chibi van der Hans, made the presentation. The Minister also received recognition for his contribution to our Carnival.

It is expected that these 7 persons will continue their support of Carnival and that many others will follow suit and continue to make Aruba's Carnival even greater.

## Jackson doctor jailed for maximum four years

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A judge jailed Michael Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray for the maximum four years yesterday, three weeks after he was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the star's 2009 death.

He also said Murray should pay compensation to Jackson's family, although he made no ruling on a prosecution proposal for \$100 million in restitution, putting off a decision on the amount until January.

"He has absolutely no sense of remorse," said judge Michael Pastor, after giving a scathing summary of the case against the 58-year-old doctor.



**Dr. Conrad Murray**

"There are those that feel that Dr Murray is a saint. There are those that feel that Dr Murray is the devil. He's neither. He's a human being. He stands convicted of the death of another human being," said Pastor.

*Continued on page 7*

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## Official statement regarding the release of Gary Giordano from Chief Prosecutor Taco Stein



**Chief Prosecutor Taco Stein**  
ORANJESTAD -- Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Justice, Chief Prosecutor Taco Stein, appeared before the press yesterday to make an official statement and respond to questions regarding the decision to release Maryland businessman Gary Giordano, the principal suspect in the disappearance of Robyn Gardner, who had accompanied Giordano to Aruba and disappeared on August 2. Giordano was arrested at the airport when attempting to leave on August 5, and has been in police custody ever since, claiming his innocence in any wrong doing the entire time. A number of times Mr. Giordano was brought before the court, and the prosecu-

tors and police were granted extensions of his incarceration, in order for them to build a case to try him in the believed death of Ms. Gardener.

Last night at 8:00 PM the final extension of 30 days expired, and the previous Friday, November 25, the judge had ruled against another extension of his incarceration. "The grounds for seeking an extension this last time were flight risk, the seriousness of the alleged crime, the public outcry that followed that alleged crime, and the fact the Mr. Giordano could hinder the investigation when released," stated Prosecutor Stein. He also explained his office feels the grounds that justified extensions previously are still in place, and so had appealed to the High Court, a tribunal of 3 judges, to repeal the decision.

Though Prosecutor Stein attempted to have the hearing scheduled prior to Mr. Giordano's release, the High Court refused, citing that making that special concession from their regular schedule would be an infringement on the rights of Mr. Giordano. The hearing will take place in chambers today, November 30, and if the decision repealed, an order for extradition of Mr. Giordano back to Aruba will be issued to the U.S. authorities.

Stein then went on to explain the difference between the U.S. and Aruban, or Dutch justice system, which are both based on the premise that the suspect is innocent until proven guilty. Regarding differences: "In our system, people are held in pre-trial detention when the law allows us-cases in which this is allowed do not differ much. A main difference is we do not use a system of bail in our country." In the U.S., a suspect needs to be charged early in the investigation, in the Aruban/Dutch system, the suspect is charged at the end; though the crimes of which they are suspected will be described in as much detail as possible, it is not a charge, per se.

"Whether or not the High Court will grant the detention, we want to make it clear that the case does not end here, Mr. Giordano will remain our prime suspect," he continued. "If we bring a charge, we must bring it for the trial, stating all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the case, so the suspect can prepare his defense. This means the investigation has yielded sufficient information for us to be able to draft that charge; we are not at that point yet. A charge, now, would lead to a situation where this can only bring an acquittal...this would be highly counterproductive. We are determined to continue the inves-

tigation. We want to know what happened to Robyn. This is not only to serve justice; we feel very strongly that Robyn's family and friends should get answers."

He expressed his sympathy, as a father himself, of not knowing what has happened to his child, particularly with the holidays approaching.

He then detailed extensive searches, along the shore, under the sea, with 6 cadaver dogs for 5 days, resulting in a deep water search with a specialty dive team from the Royal Dutch Navy assisted by dive robots. "All these efforts did not lead us to traces of Robyn."

A number of other lines of investigation are still being pursued. Digital devices, computers confiscated from Mr. Giordano's home, cameras, cell phone and laptops are being scrutinized, and the Prosecutor's office is waiting for results from the FBI. DNA testing from blood found on the scene where he claims they entered the water has proved to be Robyn's; however, he claims she cut her toe when initially entering the water. Taco Stein acknowledged that all evidence obtained up to this time is circumstantial.

When asked what originally made Giordano a suspect, Stein cited his original statement did not coincide with the circumstances; claiming he was struggling against the

waves, currents and winds for his own life, he was not paying attention to his companion's difficulties. However, observers and searchers report that the day of her disappearance the wind and water were quite calm and still, not at all the ordinary conditions that are usually present, as Mr. Giordano described. This first aroused their suspicions.

Since his incarceration, Mr. Giordano has never wavered in his claim of innocence. A travel insurance policy for 1.5 million dollars on Ms. Gardener's life is also felt to be suspicious, and FBI handwriting experts have analyzed elements of the document and given an opinion, Aruban prosecutors are waiting to hear on a second opinion. A large number of witnesses have been questioned on Aruba and in the U.S., and they expect to hear from more, according to Mr. Stein. The theory that she might be alive has also been pursued, with possible communication with family or friends monitored, or access or use of her bank accounts, credit cards or social security number. She could not leave Aruba at monitored terminals as her passport was left behind at the hotel, and Aruba has a state of the art system for detecting falsified documents at their entry and exit ports.

*Continued on page 3*



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## Official statement regarding the release of Gary Giordano ...

*Continued from page 2*

It is felt the results from the FBI on the enormous amount of material on the confiscated devices may influence the issuance of a warrant for Mr. Giordano's return to custody. Taco Stein concluded his prepared statement with the sentiment "You see the Aruban police have made a great effort in close cooperation with international partners from the U.S., The Kingdom and the other Dutch Caribbean islands. The same goes for the

Prosecutor's office. We are thankful for that support... you may understand that I cannot go into much detail on our investigation, but we will continue our efforts to bring clarity. The Aruban society takes this very seriously; we see ourselves as a safe island, safe for our inhabitants and our guests, and we will leave no stone unturned to bring about clarity in this case."

*by Rosalie Klein*



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## Joran van der Sloot files \$10 million lawsuit against S. American authorities and murder victim's father

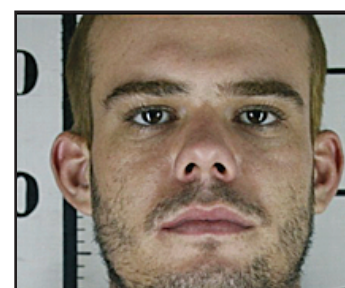
PERU --Joran van der Sloot, has filed a lawsuit against authorities with the Chilean and Peruvian government as well as Richard Flores, the father of the murder victim whom van der Sloot is suspected of slaying. Van der Sloot's suit, which seeks \$10 million in damages, alleges that the defendants violated his human rights as he was investigated for the murder of Stephany Flores.

The 24-year-old van der Sloot is alleging that Chilean authorities violated his rights during his forcible extradition from Chile to Peru to face murder charges in the May 30

killing of Flores, a 21-year-old Peruvian business student, who was found dead in van der Sloot's hotel room in Lima on June 2, 2010.

Van der Sloot has been charged with first-degree murder and robbery in the Flores case. The lawsuit alleges there was "pressure from the then-President of the Republic Alan Garcia Perez" to have him extradited.

The suit further argues that police in Chile denied van der Sloot access to a telephone or computer so he could communicate with his family and alleges he was "deprived of his



right to counsel."

In addition to Perez, the lawsuit implicates former Peruvian Minister of Interior Octavio Salazar, former police generals Miguel Hidalgo and Cesar Guardia, and Ricardo Flores, the father of murder victim Stephany Flores.

## Flocks of geese threaten Schiphol

AMSTERDAM -- The growing number of geese around Amsterdam Schiphol airport poses a threat to air safety, the safety research council has told infrastructure minister Melanie Schultz van Haagen.

Although the chance of a bird strike is minimal, the consequences cannot be assessed, making the risks 'un-

acceptably high', says the council's report.

The council recommends 'quick and vigorous' action by the government to reduce the number of geese.

In a reaction to the report, junior minister Joop Atsma said it was clearly time to solve the geese problem, particularly following an emergency landing by a Royal Air

Maroc plane last summer. The plane hit a flock of geese during take-off and nearly hit a nearby tower during the landing.

People living around the airport say it is not necessary to shoot the geese to improve safety. Planes can avoid the birds with the help of air traffic control and their radar, a spokesman said.





# Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green [www.people-self-development.com](http://www.people-self-development.com)



## One Happy Island...But How Happy is Aruba?

We are known around the world as the "One Happy Island," but have you ever wondered how we came up with that slogan? And, how can we make such a bold assertion? Based on what are we a one happy island? Did we ever do a research on what sets us apart as a happy island? Am I opening up a pot of worms by addressing this issue here? Something says to me, Tony, just drop the subject and write about something else....Aruba is a one happy island, that's it, there are no ifs and buts about it, we are a happy people! Or, are we?

Well, I insist we take a quick look at what makes an island happy. Permit me to share my humble observations, and then you decide if we are indeed, and in fact, a one happy island!

For starters, an island is considered happy when its citizens are content with its health services. This is pivotal...a matter of life and death! This week there are families and friends of families who are in total disgust with this one happy island because the medical system failed them bitterly when they lost a loved one during a birth delivery. For reasons still unknown to us the at-



tending gynecologist could not save the life of the mother.

An island is considered happy when their electric and water bills are within acceptable range and does not surpass their budgets. But when they must pay through the noses for water and electricity they are far from happy.

An island is considered happy when envy and unfair competition is a minor matter. But when citizens who attempt to progress and achieve more for themselves and their families are bombarded daily with blatant envy from others and intense unfair competition, such an island is not a happy island.

An island is considered happy when work is available to all citizens and not to just a select few. When it appears that preference is given to employing foreigners over Aruban citizens, such an island cannot be considered

happy. When professional, well-trained young people complete their studies and return to work cannot find employment, they certainly will not consider their country a one happy island.

A one happy island is a place where every citizen feels totally safe and does not have to encounter thieves in their homes or in their vehicles. Where men do not beat up on their spouse or attempt to take the life of their spouse. In one happy islands women are treated with respect and dignity, and are beloved not battered.

These are a few of the vital signs of a one happy island. Obviously, we recognize that in every society there are problems. However, when those problems affect almost every citizen, happiness becomes rather illusive.

Without question, Aruba has all the ingredients for being a happy island. The Aruban is by nature friendly, happy, vivacious and extremely tolerant. Thank God that we are inclined to being happy despite our circumstances!

If this article was helpful in any way, let me know: [tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com](mailto:tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com). Thanks.

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## Clear cut focus on School Safety!

ORANJESTAD -- On November 24th SKOA (the Foundation for Catholic Education on Aruba), the Police Force, Department of Education, Ministry of the Public Prosecutor, Foundation for Community and Criminality (SMC), and Fundacion Telefon pa Hubentud signed a historic protocol, dubbed... 'Traha na un Scol Safe' (work at a safe school). The organizations mentioned here will begin working together to improve the physical and emotional security of students and teachers at our schools on Aruba.

To be able to achieve the goal of safe schools, they will introduce a method, called 'Traha na un scol safe' along with a manual to be produced in the next year. The stand point of this unique accord in the educational and legal field is to ensure that Aruba's schools become safe havens. They must be safe physically and emotionally for every student and teacher as well as for parents and headmasters and other school personnel. Everyone ought to feel at home at school. The school must radiate an ambience of safety and

stimulate the development of every young person.

To achieve this noble goal, organizations and foundations involved in education decided to unite together and commit to the following objectives:

- The quality of education
- The management of care and security at school
- Cooperation between schools and organizations in offering support to each other
- Provide information to students and their parents
- Receive support from the Department of Education

### Security Management at Schools:

They have decided that henceforth they will apply a security management based on the method of 'Traha na un scol Safe.'

This method was designed by the *Fundacion Comunitad y Criminalidad* together with *Telefon pa Hobentud*, and is in conformity with the treaty of the International Rights of the Child. The management of safety entails, among others, that the board of the school will promote security and care at school and will introduce special rules to ward off inappropriate behavior at school and introduce sanctions for breaches of those rules.

One of the rules will be the control of student lockers, school bags and clothing. Also important will be the social skills that students must learn...how to communicate with teachers and fellow students. These will be preventive measures.

SKOA was one of the first to sign the protocol, thus henceforth SKOA and the Police Force will be working very closely with each other. In the process every school will be adopted by one of our Barrio Police Officers. Every school will have a particular Barrio Police Officer assigned to it to which he will give his full attention. Students and teachers will meet the Barrio Officer frequently.

Continued on page 5

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## Clear cut focus on School Safety!

Continued from page 4

Each school pledges to work closely and actively with the Barrio Police Officer to help maintain law and order at the school. The Police Force will delineate agreements with the schools regarding surveillance on school premises, the detention of suspects and on preventive control of arms and drugs.

SKOA and the Police will meet regularly to discuss matters relating to risks and prevention at school and on incidents and certain cases which may occur.

### Why have safe schools?

There are different reasons why schools in Aruba want to comply with the aspects for ensuring a safe school. School plays a pivotal role in the development of children and young people. Through the school's pedagogical and educative role they are contributing directly to the welfare of the community. To be able to execute their responsibility well teachers must feel physically and emotionally safe, and students likewise must feel safe in order to perform well academically.

Regrettably, the atmosphere

of safety is often absent from many schools. There are incidents where the limit of proper behavior passes all norms, both with respect to adults (teachers) and students. In the event of such cases the school must know how to act in a planned manner and with the use of clear judgement.

### Security encompasses much:

Security at school is not limited to the normal precautions relative to physical safety, such as a wall around the premises, vigilance and alarm systems. Security involves much more, for example:

- \* premises in and around the school building
- \* cooperation between school and the different partners (alliances)
- \* social contacts within the school, the care of teachers and students and the overall ambience at the school
- \* factors relative to delinquency and undesired behavior such as teasing, the possession of (fire)arms, alcohol and drugs
- \* the education, how attractive the class sessions are, the

professionalism of teachers and the academic results of students

These five factors are inter-related and influences each other. Each contains risks that could cause a sense of insecurity in and around the school.

### Factors of protection in a safe school:

The three primary factors of protection can be summarized in three concepts:

Personal attention, participation and the maintainance of order..

**Personal Attention:** students want to be recognized and be given proper merit. When they do good, they want to be told so. When they have a problem they want to be heard. When they mess up they want to be reprimanded even though they may not admit this publicly.

**Participation:** through participation students feel a sense of loyalty to the school and united to each other. If they are allowed to participate in the decision making process regarding their safety and security at school, this will influence their sense of responsibility in a positive manner.

**Regular Maintenance of Rules:** rules must be clear for students and

personnel. Likewise the consequences for breaking rules must also be clear to all.

**Personal Attention:** Participation and the Care and Maintenance of rules are extremely important for creating a positive atmosphere and healthy ambience at school.

The above named organizations are committing to jointly promote physical and emotional security of teachers and students in Aruban schools. It is hoped that other schools and institutions and NGO's will unite and be part of this proto-



col. A manual will be developed for the different educational levels. The first manual will be for the secondary school level, and is expected to be ready at the beginning of 2012.

The first Manual is being produced thanks to the financial support of UNESCO and the Ministry of Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands.

For more information, please consult the Stichting Maatschappij & Criminaliteit: smcaruba@gmail.com

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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## World outrage at British embassy storming in Iran

LONDON (AFP) - Britain led a chorus of international outrage yesterday over the storming of its embassy in Tehran by protestors, with even staunch Iran ally Russia condemning the raid.

"We are outraged by this. It is utterly unacceptable and we condemn it," a Foreign Office spokesman said as Britain urged its nationals in Iran to stay indoors.

"Under international law, including the Vienna Convention, the Iranian government have a clear duty to protect diplomats and embassies in their country and we expect them to act urgently to bring the situation under control and ensure the safety of our staff and security of our property."

Protestors stormed Britain's embassy and another diplomatic compound in Tehran, trashing offices and stealing documents in attacks that dramatically escalated the West's standoff with Iran over its nuclear program and sparked international alarm.

The protests came after Britain last week said it would cut off all relations with Iran's financial sector as part of a raft of sanctions coordinated with

the United States and Canada.

Washington condemned the attacks in the "strongest terms," the European Union called it "unacceptable" and France denounced the "flagrant and outrageous violation of the Vienna Convention."

Meanwhile at the United Nations, Security Council envoys held talks with Western nations seeking a strong condemnation of the protests.

"The United States condemns in the strongest terms the storming of the British Embassy in Tehran," White House spokesman Jay Carney said, adding "we stand ready to support our allies at this difficult time."

"We urge Iran to fully respect its international obligations, to condemn the incident, to prosecute the offenders, and to ensure that no further such incidents take place either at the British Embassy or any other mission in Iran," he said.

In Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said she learned of the attack "with extreme concern."

"I call on the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately to fulfill its international obligations, including

the Vienna Convention, to protect diplomats and embassies," she said in a statement.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in a statement that "France holds the Iranian authorities responsible for the integrity of all diplomatic missions in Tehran."

"Once more, the Iranian regime has shown what little consideration it has for international law. France denounces this flagrant and outrageous violation of the Vienna Convention" on diplomatic relations, Juppe said.

Close Iran ally Russia also slammed the attacks as "unacceptable and deserving condemnation," according to a foreign ministry statement.

Moscow said it hoped "the Iranian authorities undertake necessary measures to immediately restore order, investigate what happened, and prevent a repetition of such incidents."

## Herman Cain reassessing presidential run

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican White House hopeful Herman Cain told campaign staff yesterday he is reassessing his 2012 presidential bid, senior staffers told US media, following allegations of an extramarital affair.

The former pizza executive rose dramatically in the polls in September and October, but his fortunes have faded amid a series of accusations of sexual harassment.

In the latest blow to his campaign, an Atlanta woman alleged on Monday that she had a 13-year affair with Cain which ended just eight months ago. Cain has acknowledged a friendship with the woman, but denied they had an affair.

## Four years not enough, says Jackson's mother

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Michael Jackson's mother Katherine welcomed yesterday the maximum four-year jail term given to the star's doctor, but said it was not enough.

"Four years is not enough for someone's life. It won't bring him back. But at least he got the maximum. I thought the judge was very very fair," she said as she left the Los Angeles courtroom where the sentenced was passed.

"Four years won't bring my son back, but that's the law so... I thank the judge, and I

thank the prosecutors. I think everything went well," she told reporters.

Jackson's sister Reebie added: "I just feel that no amount of days spent in a jail cell will compensate for taking a person's life."

They were speaking after the 58-year-old medic Conrad Murray was handed the maximum jail sentence following his conviction for involuntary manslaughter over Jackson's death at his rented LA mansion on June 25, 2009.

## US urges restraint after rockets from Lebanon hit Israel

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday called on all sides to exercise restraint after rockets fired from Lebanon slammed into Israel and Israeli forces returned fire.

"We call on all parties to exercise restraint," State Depart-

ment deputy spokesman Mark Toner told reporters.

"We condemn the firing of rockets from Lebanon toward Israel. This was a provocative act. It undermines the stability of Lebanon," Toner said.

He said the attack violates a UN resolution that ended a war between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel in 2006 and urged Lebanon to cooperate with a UN peacekeeping force to identify the source of the attack.

An obscure Islamist group claimed responsibility for the rocket fire, the first such attack in two years, which comes amid fears that unrest rocking Syria could spill over into Lebanon, or provoke new conflict with Israel.

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## Prosecutor: Norway gunman declared insane

OSLO (AFP) - Anders Behring Breivik was criminally insane when he killed 77 people in Norway and is likely to be sent to a psychiatric ward, possibly for the rest of his life, prosecutors

said yesterday on the basis of a forensic examination.

Two psychiatrists who have been examining the 32-year-old rightwing extremist since his twin attacks on July 22

concluded in the report they handed over to the Oslo district court yesterday that he had over time developed "paranoid schizophrenia."

Prosecutors said that if the

diagnosis is confirmed by a forensic medicine board, they would ask for him to be sentenced to "compulsory mental health care," possibly for life, instead of prison.

"The experts describe a person who finds himself in his own delusional universe, where all of his thoughts and acts are governed by these illusions," prosecutor Svein Holden told reporters in Oslo.

The two experts who conducted 13 interviews over 36 hours with the right-wing extremist described in their 243-page report a person who had "grandiose illusions whereby he believes he is to determine who is to live and who is to die," Holden said.

He "committed these executions out of love for his people as he describes it," Holden

said.

On July 22, he first set off a car bomb outside government buildings in Oslo, killing eight people.

After that, he went to the island of Utoeya, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) northwest of Oslo, where, disguised as a police officer, he spent nearly an hour and a half methodically shooting and killing another 69 people attending a summer camp, most of them teenagers.

The killings were the deadliest attacks committed in Norway since World War II, and profoundly shocked the normally tranquil nation.

Although he has confessed to the facts, Behring Breivik has refused to plead guilty, claiming he was waging a war and that his actions were "atrocious but necessary."

## Jackson doctor jailed...

*Continued from page 1*

But he said: "Michael Jackson died not because of an isolated one-off occurrence or incident. He died because of a totality of circumstances which are directly attributable to Dr Murray."

The judge said he agreed that Murray should have to pay restitution to Jackson's estate and children, but said the amount would be decided at a later hearing -- scheduled for January 23.

The prosecution had asked for Murray to pay \$100 million to compensate Jackson's family for the lost earnings the

singer would have made from a 50-show series of comeback concerts he was planning when he died.

Murray was found guilty on November 7 for giving Jackson an overdose of the anesthetic propofol on June 25, 2009 at the star's plush Holmby Hills mansion. The drug was purportedly to help the singer fight chronic insomnia.

The physician admitted he had given the drug to the star for up to two months before his death.

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## Health & Living

### Melbourne to host major AIDS forum



GENEVA (AFP) - Melbourne in Australia will host a major conference on HIV and AIDS in 2014, the International AIDS Society (IAS) said on Tuesday.

Up to 25,000 delegates will

discuss progress made in battling the epidemic and future policy plans at the 20th International AIDS Conference, the largest forum on AIDS-related science.

The summit held every two years is organised by the Geneva-based IAS, an association of HIV professionals, and will take place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in July 2014.

"The IAS is extremely pleased to partner with the City of Melbourne, the State Government of Victoria, the Federal Government of Australia and with various scien-

tific and community leaders from the host country as well as from Asia and the Pacific with a long and impressive history of leadership on HIV," said conference chairwoman Francoise Barre-Sinoussi ahead of World AIDS Day on Thursday.

The 2012 gathering will be held in Washington.

The number of people living with HIV currently stands at about 34 million, according to the latest UN figures.

In 2010, 1.8 million deaths were linked to AIDS, down from a peak of 2.2 million last seen in 2006.

### HIV positive teachers to petition China govt

BEIJING (AFP) - Three Chinese men who say they were illegally denied government teaching jobs because they are HIV-positive have taken their cases to the country's top leaders, their lawyer told AFP on Tuesday.

The men all had passed employment exams but were rejected by education departments in three separate provinces when physical

exams revealed that they each carried the virus that can lead to AIDS.

Ahead of World AIDS day on December 1, they have written to the legislative affairs office of the State Council in Beijing, headed by Premier Wen Jiabao, asking that anti-discrimination laws be upheld.

"Discriminatory rules against AIDS patients in the public servants' physical ex-

amination fly in the face of Chinese law," Yu Fangqiang, a lawyer and activist with the pressure group Tianxia Gong told AFP.

Yu said the education departments and a court that refused to hear the case of one of the men had violated the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases and Employment Promotion laws and the Regulation on the Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS.

"These laws require that HIV/AIDS sufferers be given equal rights for employment and medical treatment," Yu said.

UNAIDS China country coordinator Mark Stirling said the organisation was watching China's reaction to the appeal closely.

"There should be no discrimination. Employment should be based solely on qualifications, not on a teacher's HIV status," Stirling told AFP. "The risk of HIV-AIDS transmission in a classroom setting is virtually nil."

Next, Yu said Tianxia Gong will send 12,000 pictures of supporters holding up signs with slogans such as "support equal employment for AIDS sufferers" to China's health and employment ministries.

### Cancer drug 'scalpers' corner US market



(AFP) - Pssst. Wanna buy some chemo drugs?

A new trend in pharmaceutical sales has raised concerns over ethics and patient safety, as companies buy up critical cancer drugs in short supply and attempt to resell them at huge markups.

Rather than operate by the dark of night on street corners, these drug dealers work in broad daylight using fax, phone and email to deluge hospitals with offers.

Experts say the so-called "gray market" is not illegal and could even be poised to surge further after President Barack Obama issued an executive order that tried to fix the problem, but may have just opened a larger loophole.

"These are a number of very small firms that have popped up out of nowhere. Most of them are relatively new," said Thomas Smith, director of palliative medicine at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. "It happens in every other market, we just don't expect it to happen in pharmaceuticals for cancer treatment," he told AFP.

More than half (56 percent) of the 549 hospitals surveyed by the non-profit Institute for

Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) earlier this year said they received daily solicitations from gray market vendors "to purchase medications no longer available through the manufacturer or usual wholesaler."

About half of hospitals surveyed (52 percent) admitted to buying one or more drugs from gray market vendors in the past two years, as manufacturers halted production of some generic drugs because they were no longer profitable.

"I would like to know why hospitals can't get these products, but the 'scalpers' can. It is unreal to have to deal with 'scalpers' in healthcare," said one survey respondent whose name was withheld by ISMP.

Drug prices ranged from 650 percent to 4,000 percent over the usual cost, said the survey, which referred to all kinds of pharmaceuticals, not just cancer drugs.

Prescription drug shortages in the United States nearly tripled from 2005 to 2010, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Just why drugs are falling out of production, particularly in cancer care, has to do with the extremely low price of generic medicines and the profit incentive that drives cancer doctors to prescribe costlier medications.

It remains unknown exactly how many gray market drug vendors are out there. Five are being investigated by Congressman Elijah Cummings for offering breast, ovarian, colon and lung cancer drugs at vastly inflated prices.



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## Sci-Tech

# Thirteen of last 15 years warmest on record: UN agency

DURBAN (AFP) - Thirteen of the warmest years recorded have occurred within the last decade and a half, the UN's World Meteorological Organisation said on Tuesday.

The year 2011 caps a decade that ties the record as the hottest ever measured, the WMO said in its annual report on climate trends and extreme weather events, unveiled at UN climate talks in Durban, South Africa.

"Our science is solid and it proves unequivocally that the world is warming and that this warming is due to human activities," WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud said in a statement, adding that policy makers should take note of the findings.

"Concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have reached new highs and are very rapidly approaching levels consistent with a 2 to 2.4 Celsius rise in average global temperatures."

Scientists believe that any rise above the 2.0 threshold could trigger far-reaching and irreversible changes on Earth

over land and in the seas.

The 2002-2011 period equals 2001-2010 as the warmest decade since 1850, the report said.

2011 ranks as the 10th warmest year since 1850, when accurate measurements began.

This was true despite a La Nina event -- one of the strongest in 60 years -- that developed in the tropical Pacific in the second half of 2010 and continued until May 2011.

The report noted that the cyclical climate phenomenon, which strikes every three to seven years, helped drive extreme weather events including drought in east Africa, islands in the central equatorial Pacific and the southern United States.

It also aggravated flooding in southern Africa, eastern Australia and southern Asia.

While La Nina, and its meteorological cousin El Nino, are not caused by climate change, rising ocean temperatures caused by global warming may affect their intensity and frequency, scientists say.

## Internet has become 'surveillance machine': Assange

(AFP) - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange blasted the mainstream media, Washington, banks and the Internet itself as he addressed journalists in Hong Kong via videolink from house arrest in England.

Fresh from accepting a top award for journalism from the prestigious Walkley Foundation in his native Australia on Sunday, Assange spoke to the News World Summit in Hong Kong before keeping a regular appointment with the police.

He defended his right to call himself a journalist and said WikiLeaks' next "battle" would be to ensure that the Internet does not turn into a vast surveillance tool for governments and corporations.

"Of course I'm a goddamn journalist," he responded with affected frustration when a moderator of the conference asked if he was a member of the profession.

He said his written record spoke for itself and argued that the only reason people kept asking him if he was a journalist was because the United States' government wanted to silence him.

The former hacker criticised journalists and the mainstream media for becoming too cosy with the powerful and secretive organisations they were supposed to be holding to account.

In a 40-minute address, he also accused credit card companies such as Visa and Mastercard of illegally cutting WikiLeaks off from funding under a secret deal with the White House.

The Internet itself had become "the most significant surveillance machine that we have ever seen," Assange said in reference to the amount of information people give about themselves online.

The anti-secrecy activist then help up a handwritten sign from an aide telling him to "stop" talking or he would be late for a mandatory appointment with police.

Assange, 40, is under house arrest in England pending the outcome of a Swedish extradition request over claims of rape and sexual assault made by two women. He says he is the victim of a smear campaign.

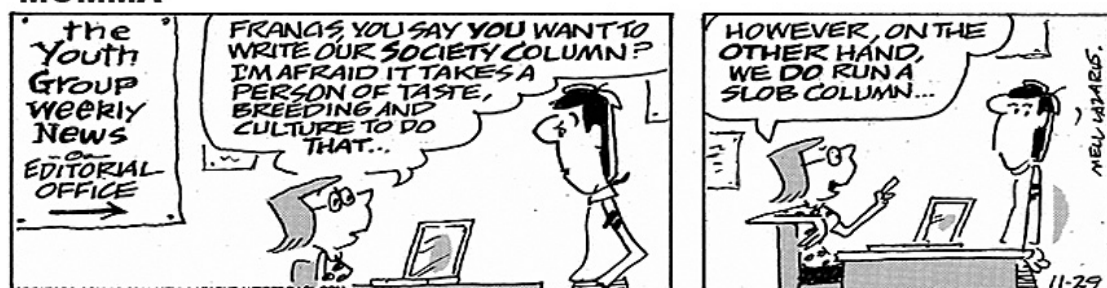


# COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



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## IT'S A STRETCH

### ACROSS

1. Historian's word
4. Actress Joan Van
7. Identical
11. Last NT book
12. Stretched the truth
14. Like Death Valley
15. Once while
16. Outstanding person
17. Riviera city
18. "Git Dogie"
21. Guitarist Kottke
22. Life, in Lyons
23. Khrushchev's "gavel"
26. Doctor's charge

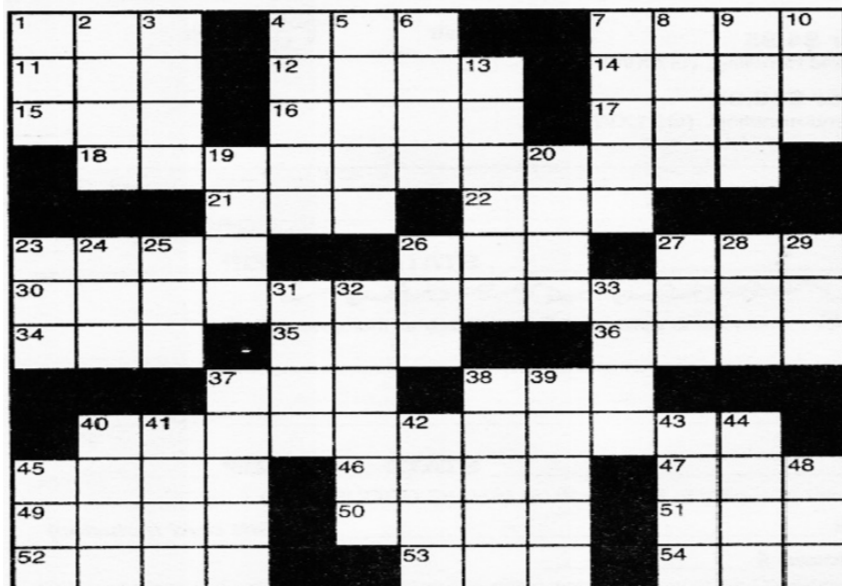
27. To the (full-tilt)
30. Little Richard oldie
34. So far
35. At least a little
36. "Puttin' on the"
37. Gerund part
38. Holy French woman: abbr.
40. Reynolds film, with "The"
45. Christie's "Death on the"
46. Inlets
47. Drum or trumpet precursor
49. Frankfurt's river
50. Starchy foodstuff

51. TV's "You There"
52. Blast on a horn
53. Males
54. Was in front

### DOWN

1. Jackie's tycoon
2. Rowlands of "A Woman Under the Influence"
3. Shaped like a racetrack
4. Like a hermit
5. Starr of the Beatles
6. On an even
7. Part of a Parisian toast
8. Type of iris
9. Steinbeck's

10. Dutch city
13. Baloney
19. Jackie's favorite couturier
20. Reasons for overtime
23. Crafty
24. Garden shed item
25. Part of Canada: abbr.
26. Emulate Lindbergh
27. 1051, to Cicero
28. Pilot's concern: abbr.
29. Affair
31. Chinese dynasty
32. Riles
33. Scope
37. Like krypton
38. Thespian's home
39. Boxer Mike
40. "Shuffle" (Boyz Scaggs hit)
41. Blue Bonnet, e.g.
42. Country on old maps of Asia
43. Like TV's McCoys
44. Alternative to truth
45. "Just kidding," to Wayne
48. Like Rudolph's nose



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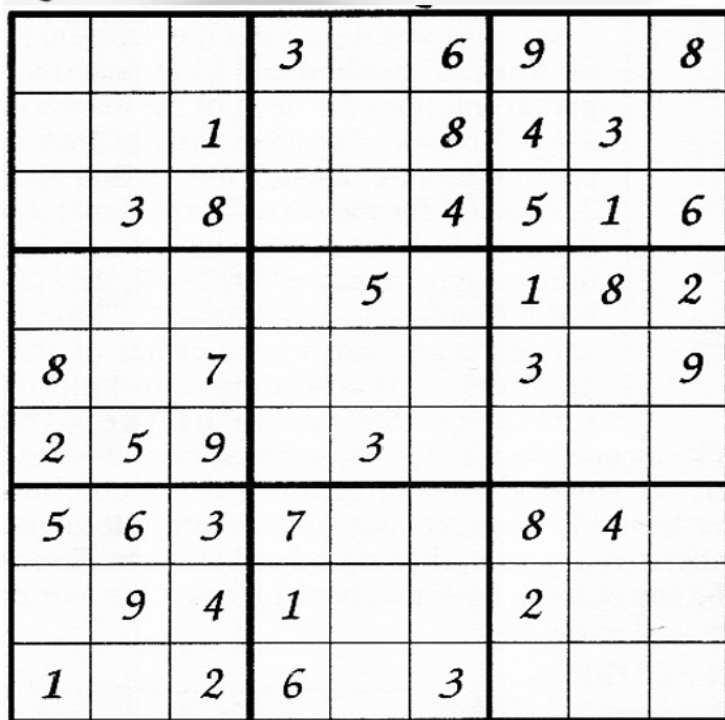
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# Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	6	1	3	9	2	8	4	7
8	9	2	5	8	1	7	6	3
1	7	8	6	2	4	5	9	3
7	2	9	1	5	8	6	3	4
6	5	3	7	9	1	2	4	8
2	8	1	4	5	6	9	7	3
9	1	5	7	2	3	8	4	6
4	8	7	9	6	5	1	2	3
8	2	6	9	1	5	3	7	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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## Finance

# AA files for bankruptcy protection

Continued from page 1

"This was a difficult decision, but it is the necessary and right path for us to take -- and take now -- to become a more efficient, financially stronger, and competitive airline," said Thomas Horton, who was named as Arpey's replacement. The airline, which serves 260 cities through a network that reaches 50 countries and territories, insisted it would continue "normal business operations."

But that claim was slapped down by some industry analysts.

"Cuts will come: They've said everything is normal for now, but the cutting will surely start soon. They'll reduce aircraft, employees and routes," said Seth Kaplan of Airline Weekly.

"Look for American hubs like Dallas and Miami, where AA has a good competitive position, to escape relatively un-

scathed. Los Angeles and even Chicago, on the other hand, could be more vulnerable."

AA said passengers will see tickets and air mileage plans honored.

Airline workers lamented the move and vowed to fight to retain benefits.

"While we think this bankruptcy could have and should have been avoided, it does not come as a surprise," the Transport Workers Union said in a statement.

"This is likely to be a long and ugly process and our union will fight like hell to make sure that front line workers don't pay an unfair price for management's failings."

The filing could have broad repercussions for the airline sector. Rumors had swirled for months that AMR would file for bankruptcy protection, after an unusual spike in pilot retirements, with the pilots trying to

sell off their own stocks in the company.

Shares in AMR have now plunged 95 percent in the last year, selling at 32 cents a share, giving the company a market value of around \$105 million.

The move will fuel speculation that American Airlines is looking for a merger in an industry that has seen a swathe of consolidation in recent years and regularly suffers from oil or other shocks.

American's long-rumored suitor and Oneworld partner International Airlines Group -- the holding company that runs British Airways and Iberia -- was quick to offer its support.

"We have a successful joint business together and believe that this will provide us with an opportunity to get stronger," IAG said in a statement.

"We have every confidence in the future of American Airlines."

# Britain slashes economic growth outlook

LONDON (AFP) - The British government yesterday slashed its growth outlook, blaming the impact of the eurozone debt crisis, and unveiled a £30-billion infrastructure scheme to help kickstart the economy.

Finance minister George Osborne, delivering his autumn statement to parliament, insisted however that there would be no let-up in the coalition's plans to axe the deficit and steer clear of the global debt storm.

Markets took the news in their stride as the contents of the statement had been widely

trailed in the media.

The economy would grow by just 0.7 percent next year, about a quarter of the previous official forecast of 2.5 percent, given in March, as Britain struggles to shield itself from the eurozone crisis.

Gross domestic product (GDP) was predicted to expand by 0.9 percent this year, about half the prior guidance for 1.7-percent growth.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Osborne was citing figures provided by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), an independent fiscal watch-


dog set up by the government last year.

The OBR also raised its state borrowing forecasts for the next five years, putting a dent in the Conservative-Liberal Democrat government's hopes of virtually eliminating the deficit by 2015.

"Much of Europe now appears to be heading into a recession caused by a chronic lack of confidence in the ability of countries to deal with their debts," Osborne told lawmakers. "We will do whatever it takes to protect Britain from this debt storm while doing all we can to build the foundations of future growth."

"Today, we set out how we will do that by demonstrating that this country has the will to live within its means and keep interest rates low," he added.

The OBR stopped short of predicting a double-dip recession in Britain -- but Osborne refused to rule out a fresh downturn.



**Daily Exchange Rates**

Current as of: 11/29/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.71	1.73	1.75
Britain	GBP	2.72	2.77	2.83
Switzerland	CHF	1.9324	1.9396	1.9476
Netherlands	EUR	2.3537	2.3752	2.3991
Sweden	SEK	0.2477	0.2549	0.2629
Denmark	DKK	0.3098	0.3170	0.3250
Norway	NOK	0.2929	0.3001	0.3081
Japan (per 10,000)	JPY	226.71	228.78	231.08

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# Dutch public deficit to hit 4.5%

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Netherlands' public deficit will likely come in at 4.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year, higher than the planned 4.2 percent, Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager said yesterday.

The increase was due mostly to tax revenues coming in lower than expected and the minister also told parliament

that the country's debt would likely rise to 65 percent of GDP.

The Netherlands, which is among the eurozone's fiscal hawks, had a public deficit of 5.1 percent last year.

EU members are supposed to keep their public deficits below 3.0 percent of GDP and public debt at under 60 percent.

# Eurozone confirms release of Greek aid loans

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Euro finance ministers confirmed yesterday that their governments have agreed to release their share of an 8.0-billion-euro loan Greece needs to avoid default, an EU diplomat said.

"It's done," the diplomat said after ministers from the other 16 eurozone states accepted that all conditions imposed on Athens since the monies were first frozen back in August had now been met.

The eurozone states are committed to a 5.8-billion-euro payout, the other 2.2 billion due from the IMF.

Greece needs the funds by December 15 to pay its bills. The funds are the sixth installment from a 110-billion-euro

EU-IMF bailout offered to Athens in May 2010.

The eurozone has held up the funds since August as it waited for Greece to commit to economic reforms.

## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	L	B		E	M	I	R		S	E	E	P
H	A	L		B	I	D	E		O	L	L	A
A	N	A		B	L	A	C	K	B	A	L	L
B	A	C	K	E	D		O	N	E			
			K	I	D		O	V	E	R	B	I
S	C	O	T		T	R	E	E		L	O	O
T	A	U		S	E	A	R	S		A	T	E
A	R	T		T	A	T	S		S	C	A	R
R	E	S	T	A	T	E		Y	A	K		
			A	L	I		R	A	G	L	A	N
B	L	A	C	K	M	A	I	L		I	R	E
O	I	N	K		E	L	S	E		S	E	A
P	I	T	Y		S	E	E	S		T	A	R



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## Disney comes to YouTube



LOS ANGELES (AFP)-Disney films were available for rent on YouTube this week in the latest bid by the Google-owned website to transform into an online stage for the gamut of digital video content.

The first of hundreds of films from Disney studios including Pixar and DreamWorks joined the array of Hollywood titles that can be viewed as streaming rentals at youtube.com/movies.

Movies available for rent include "Alice in Wonderland"

and all four films in the blockbuster "Pirates of the Caribbean" series, according to YouTube movies and television marketing manager Min-jae Ormes.

"Even more of the great Disney classics and new releases will be added in weeks to come, including our YouTube Movie Extras with behind-the-scenes clips, interviews, and more," Ormes promised in a blog post.

Earlier this month, YouTube and The Walt Disney Co. said they were teaming up to produce an original video series and feature "family-friendly" Disney programming on the popular video-sharing site.

Disney Interactive and YouTube said the programming will be available on Disney.com and on YouTube and the "complementary online video destinations" will launch in early 2012.

"Disney Interactive will produce and program the co-branded video destinations for

both Disney.com and YouTube, providing a family-friendly experience for viewers across both platforms," Disney and YouTube said.

The programming will include original video from Disney, Disney Interactive original series, some Disney Channel programming and content created by Disney users.

The first project will launch in February and will be an original video series based on Disney's mobile game "Where's My Water?"

YouTube, which Google bought for \$1.65 billion in 2006, has been gradually adding professional content in an effort to generate revenue and announced last month that it is adding about 100 channels of original programming.

YouTube remains the top online destination for amateur video, but it faces stiff competition when it comes to professional content from services such as Apple's iTunes, Hulu and Netflix.

## Cuba lashes out against 'vulgarity' in music

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba this week took aim at "vulgarity" in popular music, decrying the sexually graphic lyrics that are increasingly common in music played by young people on the communist island.

"We note with great concern that in the past few years there has been a... type of artistic expression, including in popular Cuban music, that leaves much to be desired," read the opinion piece appearing in the daily Granma newspaper.

Cuba sees itself as the birthplace of salsa, which is seen as a national musical treasure.

But like Cuba's communist officials, some on the island take exception to reggaeton, a

hybrid of Puerto Rican, Jamaican and Latin American urban music that is sweeping the island.

Reggaeton often is also combined with rapping or singing in Spanish, and its objectionable, even explicit, lyrics are the main cause of controversy.

In the lengthy article entitled "Vulgarity in Our Music: A Choice for the Cuban People?" the government inveighed against the "macho" tone of many of the lyrics, which "reduce sexual relations to something on the level of a transaction between a prostitute" and her client, the official Communist Party newspaper wrote.

## Dutch astronaut's cheesy request



(AFP) - Dutch astronaut Andre Kuipers will have a special treat waiting for him in orbit when he arrives in space next month: five kilogrammes of Amsterdam's finest cheese, its maker.

The 53-year-old Kuipers is due to blast off on board a Soyuz rocket on December 21 with two other astronauts for a five-month-mission on board the International Space Station.

"Andre is a big fan of our cheese and asked us in a letter to arrange with space authorities to see if we could send up some of his favourite Old Amsterdam," the cheese-maker's spokeswoman Henriette Westland told AFP.

"After numerous emails to NASA and the European Space Agency, they agreed to send up around 10 kilogrammes (22 pounds)," she added.

She said the Dutch traditional snack had to be specially cut and wrapped before being shipped to Houston and then to Kazakhstan, where five kilogrammes were blasted off on board a cargo rocket to the ISS at the end of October.



Another five kilogrammes are expected to go up on another freight rocket from the Baikonur launching site by the end of January, Westland added.

Old Amsterdam cheese is one of the Westland company's best-known export brands and sold in some 70 countries.

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## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline

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high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



## Cool Casino... where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Riu Resort has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, or best of all: cash!

December is a particularly great time to sign up to be a Cool Customer, as bonus points, which when redeemed, not only gives terrific rewards but raffle tickets for their holiday drawing with fabulous prizes. The final drawing will be on Friday, December 16, during the live TV broadcast of "E

Regalo" with local media personality Ruben Garcia and Aruba's own "Sean Kingston" – Biggy Boy, who will be launching his new CD live from Cool Casino.

The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when they use their membership cards.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of

plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many to choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!





## SPORT

## Sport: Coe baffled by absence of female award contenders

LONDON (AFP) - Sebastian Coe was among several leading figures in British sport left stunned by the fact not a single woman was included in the shortlist for the prestigious BBC sports personality of the year award.

The 10-strong list, picked by 27 sports editors from UK national newspapers and magazines, including 'Lads Mags' Zoo and Nuts is an exclusively all-male affair.

And this in a year where Britain has produced several female world champions in swimmers Keri-Anne Payne and Rebecca Adlington as well as taekwondo's Sarah Stevenson.

Coe, a former double Olympic 1500 metres champion and winner of the 57-year-old BBC award, open to all British sportsmen and women, in 1979, said Tuesday: "I find it slightly surprising that there is not a woman on that shortlist."

"We have had Rebecca Adlington winning a world title in the world swimming championships, we have had other women world champions this year too."

"This has also been a year where two women have won silver medals at the athletics world championships, Hannah England and Jessica Ennis, and it is one of the toughest championships in which to win a medal so I am surprised," added Coe, the London 2012 Olympic Games supremo.

Adlington, via social networking site Twitter, said: "There's been some great sportswomen like Keri-Anne Payne, it's sad they are not recognised. Hopefully next year can be all women nominations after London 2012."

Stevenson, whose world title was all the more creditable given both her parents died from illness this year, said: "Thanks all for your comments

about not being nominated. It's a shame, but just how it is! I'll keep fighting for my parents, not for £SPOTY".

Triathlon world champion Chrissie Wellington did not hold back in her criticism, saying: "No women in BBC Sport's top ten. It's not about me, it's about the need to celebrate achievements of so many female GBR athletes. Disgraceful."

Among those nominated are British Open golf champion Darren Clarke, leading cyclist Mark Cavendish, world 5,000 metres gold medallist Mo Farah, tennis player Andy Murray and boxer Amir Khan.

In total, 13 women have won the award, now determined by a public vote, with three-day eventer Zara Phillips, granddaughter of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, the most recent in 2006 -- 35 years after her mother, Princess Anne, won for her success in the same sport.

## Brazil prepares for World Cup hooligan threat

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazilian authorities have contacted police in seven countries around the world to request the details of known hooligans who may try to enter the country during the 2014 World Cup, press reports here revealed.

The request was made by the Secretaria Especial de Grandes Eventos - a government department set up to help with the organisation of events such as the World Cup and the 2016 Olympics - to police authorities in Argentina, Germany, the United States, the

United Kingdom, the Netherlands, South Africa and Poland, according to the Folha de Sao Paulo daily.

"Any supporter identified as being problematic by police in their home country will not be granted a visa to enter Brazil," the newspaper claimed.

Security forces will also carry out border controls in a bid to find troublemakers coming from countries where no visa is required to enter Brazil.

Federal police in Sao Paulo recently expressed concern at the possible threat posed by

terrorists during the World Cup, and said that they were preparing for "quite a heightened risk of an attack."

The security plans are being put in place at a time when authorities are also racing against the clock to finish stadium construction and improve the country's transport infrastructure.

Hundreds of thousands of foreign tourists are expected to come to Brazil, with games being staged in 12 different venues around what is a vast country.

## Basketball: Syracuse coach gets school backing

SYRACUSE (AFP) - Syracuse University basketball coach Jim Boeheim received support from school officials on Tuesday as a probe continued into child molestation allegations against his long-time assistant.

Some advocates for sex abuse victims called for the firing of Boeheim after three men, two of them former ballboys for the Orangemen, accused ex-assistant coach Bernie Fine of molesting them.

Boeheim defended Fine after the first two accusers came forward, saying they were lying in the wake of a pedophilia scandal that hit Penn State University's storied

American football program.

But Boeheim backed off his statements after Fine was fired on Sunday.

"I deeply regret any statements I made that might have inhibited that from occurring or been insensitive to victims of abuse."

Boeheim, in his 36th season coaching at the college he once attended, is 862-301 in his career, including a national college crown in 2003.


Fine, 65, was in his 36th season at the university he also once attended. He was placed on administrative leave after the university learned authorities were investigating molestation claims against him.

Fine, who has not been

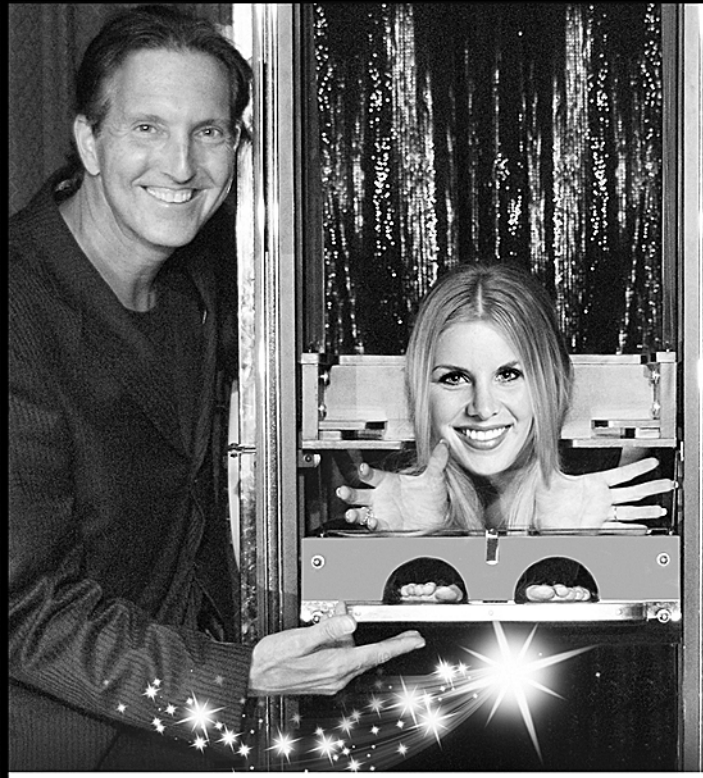
charged with any crime, has called the allegations "patently false".

The backing for Boeheim came hours before Syracuse played its first game since the firing of Fine.

The Syracuse Police Department released a statement regarding why no action was taken in 2002 when claims were raised against Fine, detailing what happened nine



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## NBA: Players make first moves toward ratifying new deal

NEW YORK (AFP) - NBA players made their first moves toward ratifying a tentative settlement agreement with team owners, starting the process of recertifying their union so they can vote on a new deal.

The move came as a group of players who filed an anti-trust lawsuit asked a federal judge to stay any action on the lawsuit while final details of a settlement are being hammered out.

An agreement early Saturday morning that appears set

to end the lockout which began July 1 must be ratified by the owners and the players, who must first vote to re-establish their union so they can agree to the 10-year deal.

Players decertified the union earlier this month so they could pursue the anti-trust lawsuit.

The National Basketball Players Association sent letters to 450 players on Monday asking for signatures to recertify the union. Players are expected to do so. After that, a majority of players must vote in favor of the new deal.

The players, like the NBA Board of Governors, are expected to approve the deal rather than send the sides back to the negotiating table.

Under the terms of the new NBA deal, a season of 66 games per team, 16 shorter than normal, is set to begin on December 25 with the campaign stretching to late April and the NBA Finals pushed back to late June.

Owners won a 50-50 split of the NBA's annual revenue, about \$4 billion, after giving players 57 percent of revenues under the old deal that expired in June.

That amounts to about \$300 million more for owners and less for players. Owners claimed they lost about \$300 million last season, with only eight of the NBA's 30 teams turning a profit.

Also, the NBA players who filed the anti-trust lawsuit wrote a letter to US District Judge Patrick Schiltz saying they are working on final terms of the deal and wanted Schiltz to stay any scheduled court action until December 9.

That is also the date the NBA intends to open training camp and begin a free agency signing period.

## Brees powers Saints.....

*continued from page 16*

Just 95 seconds later, Brees connected with Graham on a 29-yard touchdown pass, boosting the Saints' lead to 35-10.

Manning cracked the New Orleans defense in the fourth quarter, hooking up with Victor Cruz on touchdowns of 4 and 72 yards.

Brees guided a nine-play, 80-yard drive that ended on a 12-yard Pierre Thomas touchdown run and Mark Ingram added a 35-yard touchdown run with 62 seconds remaining.

Manning completed his first 21 passes of the second half, one shy of the NFL single-game consecutive completions record held by Mark Brunell and David Carr.



Devin Thomas (notes) #15 of the New York Giants is tackled by Malcolm Jenkins (notes) #27 of the New Orleans Saints at Mercedes-Benz Superdome on Nov. 28, 2011.

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# NFL: Brees powers Saints to Giants rout

NEW ORLEANS (AFP) - Drew Brees threw four touchdown passes and ran for another on Monday to spark the New Orleans Saints to a 49-24 rout of the New York Giants in a game of National Football League contenders.

Brees, the 32-year-old quarterback who led the Saints to a 2010 Super Bowl title, completed 24 of 38 passes for 363 yards, giving him 3,689 passing yards this year, keeping him on pace for the NFL's most prolific passing season.

"I'm not allowing it to become a distraction," Brees said of his record bid. "As long as we win ball games, we invite all those records. You want to put your best performance on the field every week."

The Saints produced 577 total offensive yards, the second-most ever conceded by the Giants since their 1925 creation -- Giants' defenders surrendered 682 yards in a 1943 game.

"I can't say enough about our team," Brees said. "We won tonight in every aspect."

The Saints (8-3) stayed one game in front of the Atlanta Falcons atop the NFC South division heading into next Sunday's home game against Detroit (7-4) while New York (6-5) fell one game behind first-place Dallas in the NFC East.

The Giants suffered their third loss in a row ahead of Sunday's home game against reigning Super Bowl champion Green Bay, this season's only unbeaten NFL squad at 11-0.

Brees threw for 265 yards and three touchdowns in the first half, marching the Saints on three scoring drives of 80 yards or more, and both ran and threw for touchdowns in the third quarter to frustrate the Giants.

Asked how the Saints could top such a stellar effort,

Brees laughed.

"You can always get better," he said. "There is always something to prove."

New York quarterback Eli Manning, who lived in New Orleans when his father Archie was the Saints' quarterback, had his homecoming spoiled by a Saints' defense that muffed his side's run attack and kept him under pressure.

"It was a big win for us," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "Like any game it wasn't perfect. But I was pleased with the win."

Brees opened the scoring eight seconds into the second quarter on a four-yard touchdown pass to Lance Moore, flipped a five-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Graham with 2:21 remaining in the period and tossed a 10-yard touchdown pass to Moore only 1:46 later to give New Orleans a 21-3 half-time lead.

"He made some fantastic throws," Payton said. "There's a confidence players have around him. He has thrown the ball with good rhythm and balance."

Moore had five catches for 54 yards in the first half while Graham caught four passes for 55 yards. Marques Colston caught three passes for 78 yards, all on the Saints' final first-half scoring drive, which took only 34 seconds.

The Giants, whose only first-half points came on a 42-yard Lawrence Tynes field goal, trimmed the New Orleans lead to 21-10 on an eight-yard Brandon Jacobs touchdown run only 4:17 into the third quarter.

But the Saints answered with a 73-yard touchdown drive that was capped when Brees ran eight yards for a touchdown after 9:12 of the third quarter. It was the first rushing touchdown of the season for Brees.

*continues on page 15*

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## NFL: Detroit's Suh banned two games for stomping foe

DETROIT (AFP) - Detroit Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh was suspended for two games by the National Football League on Tuesday for stomping on Green Bay Packers guard Evan Dietrich-Smith last Sunday.

Suh, whose mother is from Jamaica and whose father is from Cameroon, will miss Detroit's game next Sunday at New Orleans and a December 11 home game against the Minnesota Vikings. He won't be paid until his December 12 return.

The NFL imposed the ban for unsportsmanlike conduct. Suh cannot work out at the team's facility during the suspension but the payroll hit will be minimal as Suh's five-year contract pays him \$40 million and as much as \$68 million with incentives.

Suh, who called NFL commissioner Roger Goodell on



Sunday to apologize for the incident, has three days to appeal the decision.

If he does, the league plans to expedite the process for a final decision before next Sunday's game.

While winning NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year honors last season, Suh was fined three times last season and again after throwing a quarterback to the ground after he had thrown the ball during a pre-season game last August.

The latest violation came last Thursday in a nationally

telecast game on the US Thanksgiving holiday when Suh lifted his right leg and slammed down his foot onto the arm of Dietrich-Smith while he was lying on the ground.

Suh, who had already shoved the Packers' blocker's helmet to the ground while he was on the field, was ejected for kicking. Suh said after the game he did not intentionally step on Dietrich-Smith but later apologized on his Facebook website page.

The incident took place in the third quarter of Green Bay's 27-15 victory over the Lions, a triumph that kept the reigning Super Bowl champions the only undefeated team in the NFL this season.

At 7-4, the Lions are level with Chicago and Atlanta for two National Conference wild-card playoff berths with five games remaining in the season.

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